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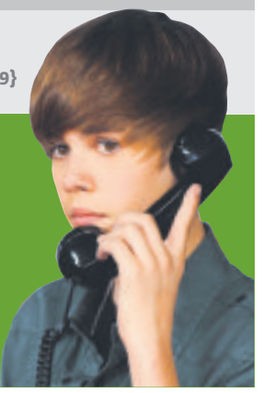
BIEBER'S 'RECKLESS' PHONE PRANK {page 09}



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NEW YORK
Thursday, March 29, 2012

COURTESY OF OCCUPY WALL STREET

▶ These fake MTA signs were found in at least 20 subway stations yesterday, and MetroCard readers were covered with tape.

OWS hits the MTA where it hurts: Fare collection

Thousands get free ride when Occupiers prop open gates, tape card readers shut in stations OWS blasts NYPD for using MTA buses to carry prisoners {page 02}

Sports

Knicks have no need for Lin, Stoudemire

Short two starters, New York still blows out Orlando 'Melo, Shumpert lead the way in an offensive show {page 17}

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OWS vs. MTA, Round 2

MTA defends NYPD's move to kick riders off city bus to transport arrested protesters to jail ◗ OWS chains subway doors at 20 stations

Riders, be ready: The NYPD can commandeer your bus at any time to take prisoners to jail.

Yesterday, MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota backed the NYPD's controversial confiscation of a public bus to transport Occupy Wall Street protesters who were arrested at Zuccotti Park on March 17, the sixth-month anniversary of the movement.

"When you have situations like this and the police determine that they need to get from point A to point B, we will help them," Lhota said.

Protesters said police officers stopped an M5 bus, which runs the length of Manhattan from South Ferry to the George Washington Bridge, around midnight by Zuccotti Park. They said the NYPD made paying passengers get off and in their place boarded dozens of arrestees. Police rerouted the vehicle to the Midtown South police precinct.

It is unclear if those riders who were kicked off were reimbursed for their fare.

Drivers who object to working with police can opt out of driving prisoners, Lhota said, because the police department has officers trained to drive buses. Lhota said the MTA often works with other city agencies to transport people in emergencies, like 9/11 and during Tropical Storm Irene.

"This relationship between the transit authority and the NYPD goes back to as long as the transit authority has been around," said Lhota.

But Occupy Wall Street protesters stormed yesterday's board meeting to voice their anger. "Public resources have been commandeered by a private army," said Shawn Carrie, 22, an OWS protester who was arrested on March 17, referencing when Mayor Michael Bloomberg infamously declared on Nov. 29, "I have my own army in the NYPD."

EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN
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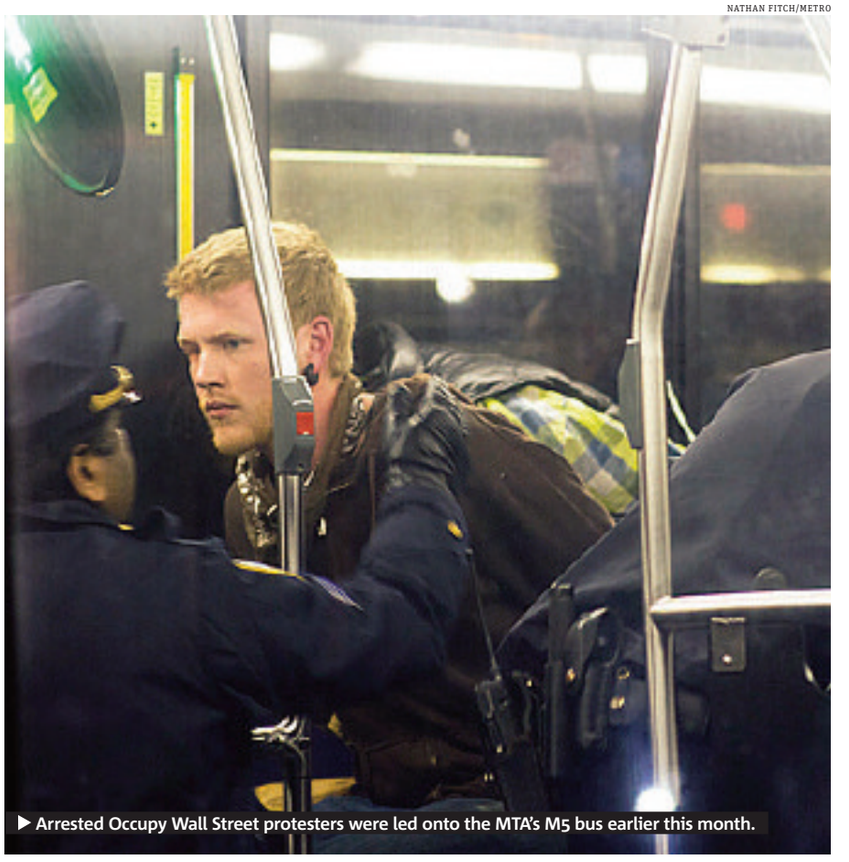
NATHAN FITCH/METRO



▶ Arrested Occupy Wall Street protesters were led onto the MTA's M5 bus earlier this month.

In the news

Cops search for shooter

Police are searching for a man they say is wanted in connection with a nonfatal shooting in Harlem outside the New Way Food Market on Seventh Avenue. On March 19, police said that a man approached another man, shooting at him and striking him multiple times. The suspect is described as being 20 to 25 years old, 5-foot-8 to 5-foot-10 with a dark complexion, thin build, and black hair. METRO/AB

In the news

A Tebow fan

Cardinal Timothy Dolan is excited about Tim Tebow. The city's highest-ranking Catholic said on his radio show he is excited that Tebow is the newest Jet. "I'm kind of happy about [Tebow coming to New York]," he said. "He's a class act. I've followed him with great interest and I highly respect him for his unabashedly Christian values." METRO/AB

No such thing as a free ride?

NEW YORK. Thousands of riders got a free subway ride yesterday morning thanks to Occupy Wall Street.

Well before rush hour, protesters sneaked into subway stations and chained open more than 20 entrances across the city.

Padlocks were reportedly discovered at 135th Street on the 3; 116th Street on the 6; Halsey Street on the L; Ninth Avenue on the D; Beverly Road on the Q; and Carroll Street on the F stop in Brooklyn; as well as Steinway Street and 65th Street on the R in Queens, among other stations.

The gates were open at about 5 a.m. and the MTA cut most of them down by 8:30 a.m.

Protesters said they worked in conjunction with "rank-and-file" workers from the Transport Workers Union Local 100 and the Amalgamated Transit Union.

A union spokesman denied the TWU was part of the attack.

Fliers posted in the subway also called for a "general strike" on the subways on May 1. METRO/EAE

Fare game?

Occupy said the "fare strike" against the MTA was in response to "escalating service cuts, fare hikes, racist policing, assaults on transit workers' working conditions and livelihoods."

Coop's Israel boycotters vow to keep fighting

PARK SLOPE. Those who proposed the Park Slope Food Coop vote to ban imported Israeli foods said they will not back down, despite the fact that the suggestion lost in a 1,005-to-653 vote.

"The results of the vote show that there remains much work to do in our efforts to educate co-op members," said ban supporters in an e-mail.

653 people said they wanted to have the vote, while 1,005 people voted against.

At the food co-op, items that would be affected under the ban include paprika, vegan marshmallows, olive pesto and produce. METRO/CB

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Israeli items still served.

'Poopetrator' on the loose in Brooklyn

BROOKLYN. Police are searching for the person responsible for smearing feces on a number of doors and keyholes in the Prospect Heights and Crown Heights neighborhoods. Residents began making the disturbing discoveries in the past month, although one neighbor said it happened to her building as far back as a year ago. METRO/CG

Quoted

"No idea why this is happening. [I] just wonder why anyone would want to handle the poop in the first place."
LYNN, A VICTIM OF THE CRIME

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Accused of disabled abuse

QUEENS. A couple accused of locking a partially paralyzed former neighbor in their apartment for more than a year remained held without bail yesterday, authorities said.

The battered woman, 58, who suffered a broken arm, ribs and a dislocated shoulder, was discovered by police responding to a 911 call placed by her niece after she was unable to reach her by phone for months, Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said.

Police found the woman locked in an empty room, lying huddled on the floor. She was bleeding from the head and severely malnourished, said officials.

"The defendants are accused of turning the victim's life into a living nightmare."
QUEENS DA, RICHARD BROWN

Patrick Donovan, 42, and Mae Washington, 63, face life in prison if convicted.

The victim is partially paralyzed on her left side.
REUTERS

Mistrial for cop accused of rape

Judge declares mistrial, but ex-NYPD officer will still face up to a lifetime in jail Woman who says he attacked her sobs in court Kicked off the force

PAUL LOMAX/POOL PHOTO

▶ A jury could not decide if ex-cop Michael Pena committed rape.

After days of deliberation and a deadlocked jury, a judge declared a mistrial yesterday in the case of Michael Pena, 27, a police officer accused of raping a woman in Inwood last year.

But Pena still faces up to life in prison. The jury decided him guilty of multiple counts of sexual assault on Tuesday and he will be sentenced for those convictions on May 7.

"In this brutal attack against an innocent young woman, the defendant showed no mercy," Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said yesterday. "At sentencing, we will recommend that he receive none."

The victim, who was in court for the trial, reportedly sobbed when Judge Richard Carruthers announced that he would end the trial.

The judge decided to declare a mistrial when the jury forewoman told him yesterday that they could not arrive at a verdict on the four rape counts against Pena.

Jurors had told the judge that they were deadlocked on the rape charge, but had reached a consensus in a partial verdict convicting him of sexual assault. The judge previously had urged them to keep deliberating.

Pena was charged last year after cops responded to a 911 call in Inwood. A schoolteacher, 25, on her way to work, said that he asked her for directions to the train and then pulled out a gun and forced her into a courtyard, where he allegedly raped her.

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Kicked off the police force

Pena was a three-year veteran of the police force and was assigned to a Washington Heights precinct. He was fired from the NYPD on Tuesday after the jury found him guilty of the sex assault.

Pena's lawyer conceded that Pena had attacked the woman, but argued he did not rape her and that the prosecutors could not prove penetration had occurred.

The minimum time for a conviction on predatory sexual assault is 10 years, with a maximum of 25 years to life. **METRO/AB**

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on behalf of The Creative Coalition

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THE CREATIVE COALITION

'Tebow-mania' in NYC leads Nike to file lawsuit

Nike sues Reebok for producing Tim Tebow jersey Say they're the only ones licensed to sell Tebow gear Jets QB is even getting involved

When Reebok introduced a green New York Jets T-shirt with the number 15 and star NFL quarterback Tim Tebow's name on it last week, Nike Inc. says its rival was misappropriating Nike's rights.

In a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New York, Nike accused Reebok of taking unfair advantage of "Tebow-Mania" — the phenomenon surrounding the quarterback who moved to the Jets from the Denver Broncos. Tebow has drawn attention across the United States not just as a sportsman, but for his open displays of his evangelical faith on the field.

Reebok, a unit of Adidas, "has no authorization from Mr. Tebow or anyone else to use Mr. Tebow's name or other identification on such Jets products," read the lawsuit, dated March 27 and made public yesterday.

"Reebok has taken upon itself to illegitimately seize on this unique and short-lived consumer opportunity."
NIKE CLAIMS IN ITS SUIT

Nike said only they are authorized and licensed to use Tebow's name on football-related products.

The Adidas unit was producing and selling Tebow-identified Jets apparel products "in order to capitalize on the public's short-lived intense consumer appetite for such products, and to prevent Nike from doing so," according to Nike's suit.

And Tebow himself is apparently even getting involved in the battle. A representative of Tebow wrote to Reebok on March 23 and demanded that it discontinue using his name and remove the products from all locations, the lawsuit said. **REUTERS**

Who controls Tebow name?

According to the suit, Nike claims there are only two ways to acquire the right to use an NFL player's name and number on merchandise.

The first would be to obtain the right directly from the player.

Companies can also enter a so-called "group license" with NFL Players Inc., the licensing arm of the NFL Players' Association, the players' union.

Nike said that it has a license with both player and union, and that Reebok never had an agreement with Tebow individually. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Nike has made it clear it wants profits from Reebok's sales of Tim Tebow apparel.

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City parks ranked among best in the world

New York City made the top 10 in an international list of the best cities for parks, compiled by travel guide Frommer's. And the city's parks just might get better this summer.

New York joined Barcelona, Melbourne and London, deemed Frommer's, which gave a special nod to iconic Central Park.

"Central Park is the city's best known patch of green," the travel guide writes. Frommer's also noted scenic Fort Tryon Park in upper Manhattan and Gramercy Park, which requires a key to enter. Prospect Park gets a shout-out, as does neighboring Brooklyn Botanic Garden. In the Bronx, the guide suggests visiting Pelham Bay Park.

And, in good news for New Yorkers, there will be several new additions to the city's beloved parks this summer: Williamsburg's McCarren Park pool will reopen on June 28 after 28 years and $50 million in renovations.

"I can't wait to return to the parks and feel that overwhelming connection with the tens of thousands of people."
NY PHILHARMONIC MUSIC DIRECTOR ALAN GILBERT

The new pool will accommodate 1,500 swimmers. The pool has been the setting of summer concerts since 2005 and is being built into a year-round recreation center, which, in addition the pool, will include a snack shop and a rooftop cafe.

After canceling concerts last year, the New York Philharmonic's "Concerts in the Parks" series will also return this summer.

The beloved free, outdoor concerts will be held in a park in each borough during the month of July.

Other new scenery will include Rockaway Park in Queens. That park will feature a new lawn and enhanced coastal dunes, with more trees planted nearby. The Parks Department hopes to have most of the work done this summer, when they estimate it will be 77 percent finished.

But you don't have to wait for another season of park adventures.

Last week's warm weather means some cherry blossoms have already bloomed at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

And next week, the High Line will expand its hours for the spring, opening from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. instead of closing at 7 p.m.

If you have to work, just bring your laptop — the city will add Wi-Fi to six new parks this year, from the High Line to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens.

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NEW YORK CITY PARKS DEPARTMENT

▶ The pool at McCarren Park in Williamsburg will reopen on June 28 after being renovated.

Create your own patch of green

Get your own green on this weekend. The Parks Department will host a GreenThumb Grow Together conference Saturday.

GreenThumb, which supports community gardens in the city, is the nation's largest urban gardening program.

More than 1,000 gardeners will meet in the Bronx and learn everything from urban beekeeping to the herbal use of common weeds.

An estimated 600 community gardens are supported by the program.

METRO/AB

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THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

What's going on with Bethenny Frankel's marriage?

There are few reality TV stars who know how to game the system as well as **Bethenny Frankel**. Her ambition is awe-inspiring: She's risen from a throwaway contestant on 2005's "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart," to, despite not being an actual wife, one of the original five housewives on "The Real Housewives of New York City." From there, she wrote several New York Times best-selling books, starred in two spin-offs, "Bethenny Getting Married?" and "Bethenny Ever After," and founded the company Skinnygirl Cocktails, which she sold last year for an alleged $120 million dollars.

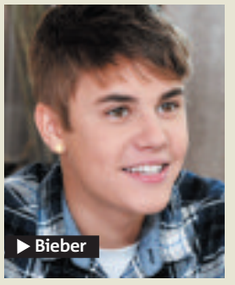
But is she so driven that she's letting her marriage to husband **Jason Hoppy** suffer?

That's what In Touch is reporting. They say that Hoppy has moved out of their New York City apartment and is staying at a nearby hotel. They report that Hoppy is claiming he ditched the $5 million Tribeca condo he shares with Frankel and their 23-month-old daughter, Bryn, because of renovations. But a source thinks he also left because he's fed up with Bethenny's diva behavior. "The fighting has gotten worse," the source tells In Touch. Apparently, Frankel has become overly obsessed with the launch of her L.A.-based talk show. "Her energy has been nervous and neurotic," the source says. "He can't take it anymore, so he's been doing everything on his own."

Or, this drama could just be fabricated in order for fans to train their attention back on Frankel in time for her talk show, set to launch in September. She's witchy that way.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

What's next? 'Bethenny Getting Divorced'?



▶ Bieber

Bieber is slapped with Twitter lawsuit

Justin Bieber's latest Twitter antics are causing him some legal trouble. Bieber posted a random phone number — minus the final digit — and wrote, "Call me right now." Two Texas residents reportedly received more than 1,000 phone calls and are now suing the Canadian pop star for damages due to "reckless behavior," according to Hollyscoop. What kind of damages are we talking about? They're reportedly after tickets to a Bieber concert, an apology and an endorsement of an online business run by one of the plaintiffs, among other things.

Can a celebrity do anything outside of the straight and narrow these days and not get sued?

Talking points

Is Megan Fox knocked up?

After answering a slew of parenting-related questions while promoting "Friends with Kids," **Megan Fox** is reportedly expecting her first child with husband **Brian Austin Green**, according to Star magazine. "They just found out," a source claims, "and are incredibly excited." The happy couple won't be sharing the news just yet, though, the source warns: "It's still early, so they are only telling close friends and family members."

▶ Mama Fox?

Williams and Segel: K-I-S-S-I-N-G

After reportedly dating quietly for several months, **Michelle Williams** and **Jason Segel** stepped out in public as a couple for the first time, taking a post-dinner stroll in Brooklyn, according to Us Weekly. "He put his arm around her and made her laugh as they walked," a source says. "[They] seemed very relaxed." And Segel was spotted the next day bonding with Williams' 6-year-old daughter, Matilda. The source adds that the couple is "trying to make it work. She hasn't been this happy in a long time."

Kutcher gets new 'Two and a Half' deal

Before "Two and a Half Men" can get renewed for another season, producers have to strike a deal with new star **Ashton Kutcher**, whose contract only covered one season, according to Hollyscoop. "I don't see any reason to continue without him," the show's creator, **Chuck Lorre**, says. "He's a really nice man and he's a really easygoing guy; he's very relaxed and very professional. He shows up and he's ready to work; he's prepared and he brings it." He's also already the highest-paid actor on the show, earning a reported $700,000 per episode. Of course, **Charlie Sheen** was pulling in $1.25 million an episode before he was fired.

The feed ...

▶ **Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.**

Today, Paris Hilton is on the move, Jimmy Fallon is coming clean, Katy Perry wants you to be skeptical and Seth MacFarlane isn't a fan of redheads.

@ParisHilton
At the airport about to take off to Sydney! Haven't been to Australia in a long time, so I'm very excited for this trip! Love it there!

@jimmyfallon
I once was talked into getting a perm. (I was in college & it was free.)

@katyperry
don't believe in the hype.

@SethMacFarlane
There's nothing more grungy-looking than a redheaded person in a '70s movie.

Hilton

myentertainment

When Joan Rivers met 50 Cent

1. Kristin Cavallari showed off her baby bump leaving the Bagatelle restaurant on Tuesday in Los Angeles.

2. Florence Welch from Florence and the Machine performed at Casino de Paris on Tuesday in Paris.

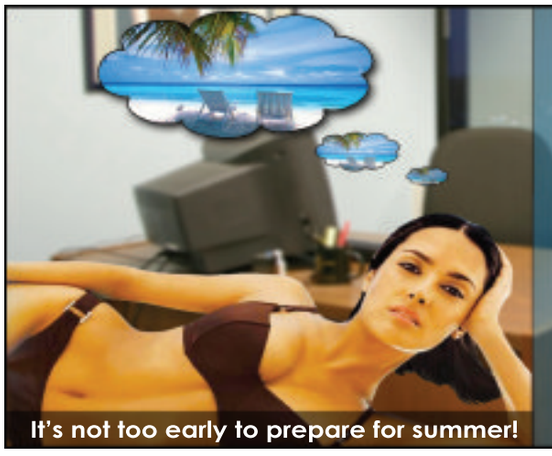
3. Raven-Symone made her Broadway debut in "Sister Act" at the Broadway Theatre on Tuesday in New York City.

4. Rihanna attended a photocall for her new film "Battleship" at The Corinthia Hotel on Wednesday in London.

5. Joan Rivers and **50 Cent** attended the 50 Cent Street King Ad campaign shoot at the Planet Fitness in Harlem on Tuesday.

6. Rachel Zoe and actress **Molly Sims** arrived at the Valentino Rodeo Drive Flagship store opening on Tuesday in Beverly Hills.

1:JB LACROIX/WIREIMAGE
2: DAVID WOLFF - PATRICK/REDFERNS VIA GETTY IMAGES
3: THEO WARGO/GETTY IMAGES
4: DAVE HOGAN/GETTY IMAGES
5: JOHNNY NUNEZ/WIREIMAGE
6: FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY IMAGES



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One 'Touch' creates a thousand ripples

KELSEY MCNEAL/FOX

▶ Martin (Kiefer Sutherland, right) tries to communicate with Jake (David Mazouz) on "Touch." The series airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on Fox.

If Kiefer Sutherland wanted to play a role as far away from "24" hero Jack Bauer as possible, he may have found it on the new Fox drama "Touch."

As Martin Bohm, a working-class widower struggling to provide for his son, 11-year-old Jake, Sutherland is all desperation and heart where Bauer was fearless and stoic.

"The character was so vastly different, and the tone of the piece was so vastly different, that that was part of [the 'Touch' script's] appeal," Sutherland admits. But pulling a 180 on his résumé wasn't the only draw.

"I had to read it a second time to make sure that all of the things that were affecting me were affecting me on a personal level as opposed to trying to manage a career," he says. "And the second pass had a profound effect on me. Does it happen to also be a nice diversion from '24'? Yes. But I believe, honestly, that the reason that I made the choice was because it spoke to me."

Part of what, well, touched the actor was the central relationship between father and son. All of those tender qualities we're not used to seeing the actor portray are heightened when it's revealed that Jake is gifted — he is able to identify the patterns connecting everyone and everything in the world — but he is emotionally challenged, unable to speak, and he refuses to let anyone, even his dad, touch him.

"The real driving force for my character is to just simply communicate with his son," Sutherland says. "He wants to have as normal a relationship as he possibly can with his son, which I think every parent can relate to."

As the father of two daughters — and grandfather to two boys — Sutherland says, "I don't think anybody has a child and ... doesn't want to be the best they can possibly be for that child. Martin is never going to have the perfect, idyllic relationship with his son," he explains, "and so there is a circumstance, a kind of weight on both characters where they just will never completely win. And that is something that I am drawn to certainly as an actor."

AMBER RAY
amber.ray@metro.us

It's all connected

Jake is able to see the interconnected nature of the world and, with his father's help, makes sure there are no snares in the web that weaves together our lives. It's a premise that gives "Touch" a message of hope.

"This show ... explains that things happen for a reason," Sutherland says. "Very much like the wildebeest that is stung by a bee in the Serengeti and starts a stampede and creates a dust cloud that rises ... and starts a storm in the Gulf, there is a cause and effect to everything. There's something wonderfully comforting about thinking that everything has a purpose and that there is no small moment."

Top 5 films

COURTESY OF WARNER BROS.

▶ Sam Worthington, more like "Dash(ing man) of the Titans." That doesn't work, does it?

'Wrath of the Titans'

1 Sam Worthington and Liam Neeson get all mythological on you again in this sequel to "Clash of the Titans." Based on the ads we've seen, the people behind this movie are more ambitious with their special effects than they are with their titling. Seriously, what's next, "'Stache of the Titans"?

'Mirror Mirror'

2 Tarsem Singh puts his surrealist spin on the Snow White legend. Julia Roberts plays the evil queen whose mirror-mirror-on-the-wall has the gall to tell her she's no longer the fairest of them all.

'The Hunger Games'

3 Potter and the sparkly vamps had their time. Now, a post-apocalyptic teenage huntress takes center stage as a volunteer in her county's annual Hunger Games, in which two teens from every district must fight to the death as an act of gratitude towards the rulers of their country, Panem.

'21 Jump Street'

4 Based on the '80s TV series, this one stars Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum as two less-than-slick police officers who go undercover in an attempt to bust a high school drug ring.

'Jeff, Who Lives at Home'

5 By now, you'd think we'd be sick of seeing Jason Segel play a shorts-wearing manchild who lives in his mom's basement. And yet, we're not at all. METRO

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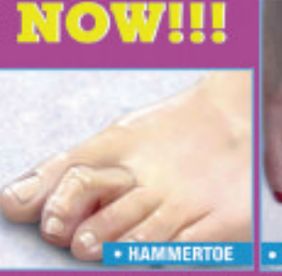

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TV watch list

'The Pauly D Project'

REALITY. "Jersey Shore" shenanigans don't stop when the boardwalk T-shirt stands have shuttered for the season. Housemate Pauly D parlays his GTL infamy into a solo spin-off series documenting his life as a DJ, with pals in tow. **Series premiere, 10:30 p.m., MTV**

'The Big Bang Theory'

COMEDY. Leonard Nimoy lends his voice to a Spock action figure when Sheldon needs help resolving a "Star Trek"-related moral dilemma.**8 p.m., CBS**

'Community'

COMEDY. Too bad Dean Pelton stole Shirley and Pierce's idea to open a sandwich shop on campus. Now that Subway has set up shop at Greendale, we're going to have that "$5 foot-long" jingle stuck in our heads all day long. **8 p.m., NBC**

'Mary Mary'

REALITY. The Grammy-winning gospel duo is still around — and has cameras following them around to prove it. **Series premiere, 10 p.m., WEtv** ● **AMBER RAY**

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- **1. AG Adriano Goldschmied The Stilt in Ikat blue, $185,** www.agjeans.com
- **2. GUESS Floral Ankle Brittney Skinny, $138,** www.guess.com
- **3. Citizens of Humanity Mandy printed jeans in Petite Rose Natural, $190,** www.net-a-porter.com
- **4. Jbrand Mid-Rise Capri in Large Floral Empress, $202,** www.jbrandjeans.com

Bright colors

- **1. Mavi Serena Ankle in Cardinal Red, $98,** www.mavi.com
- **2. American Eagle jegging in yellow, $45,** www.ae.com
- **3. Gap 1969 Always Skinny Skimmer jeans in fuchsia, $70,** www.gap.com

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Does it matter who initiates sex?

Shrink Wrap

DR. JANE GREER
HEALTH.METRO.US

Recently engaged Halle Berry and Olivier Martinez are still in the midst of their romance, so the question of who makes the first move toward sex is probably a nonissue for now. But give it a little time. Sometimes all it takes is one rejection for people to start keeping score of who initiated and when. The big question is, how much does it matter?

For many people, that first overture toward intimacy holds a lot of meaning because it is proof of your partner's love and your desirability. When that person don't make a move, it can leave you feeling unwanted and asking: Is it me? Because this could lead to your getting angry or sensitive, you might decide to hold back from initiating making love yourself. Before you know it, you can be in a sexual standoff.

Don't take it personally. There are many possible reasons your partner isn't in the mood that have absolutely nothing to do with you: Maybe he or she had a hard day at work; maybe he or she is feeling pressure from a family member, whether it is a young child or an elderly parent; maybe he or she really does have a headache. And don't forget about that heavy dinner you just had. If you want some clarity, be direct and ask your partner if something is bothering him or her.

Martinez and Berry

It is most important to be true to yourself and your own desires. Even if your partner doesn't appear interested, it is always worth reaching out. You can still be in the mood even if you partner isn't — sometimes one person's desire can ignite another's. Even if sparks don't fly that night, take it as an opportunity to plan another time for a sexual romp — tomorrow morning, perhaps? And keep in mind that it does not mean your lover doesn't want to do it with you ever — just not that night. If you can toughen your emotional skin, you can better enjoy the skin you're in.

Sex is a give and take. If you are open to sharing the role of who makes it happen, you are likely to have much more sexual intimacy in your relationship — no matter how long you've been together.

— Relationship expert **Dr. Jane Greer** *is the creator of* ***"Shrink Wrap"*** *– national commentary on what we can learn from celebrity relationships – and host of* ***"Let's Talk Sex"*** *at* ***Healthylife.net.*** *Her book,* ***"What About Me? Stop Selfishness From Ruining Your Relationship,"*** *is available nationwide.*

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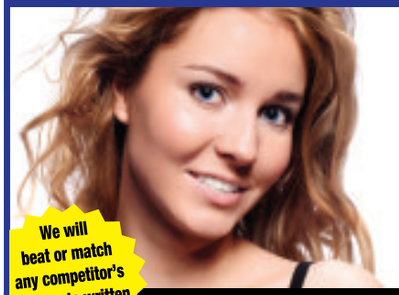
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Letters

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Trayvon Martin: Don't blame guns

RE: "SELF-DEFENSE DOESN'T MEAN KILLING KIDS": Zimmerman would have attempted to kill Martin regardless of what weapon he used. If Martin was stabbed or beaten, should we then outlaw knives, clubs, baseball bats and sticks of all sorts? Gun laws, although well-intentioned, do not deter criminals from committing crimes — only innocents from protecting themselves. John Stossel asked prison inmates if they would prefer more or less gun laws. They all answered more gun laws because criminals don't follow the law anyway. Gun laws are nearly impossible to enforce. Criminals would much rather attack a person they believe to be unarmed than an armed person.
KELLY DONNOE, LYNBROOK

Ms. White's comment is in itself a contradiction: She points out the extreme and unacceptable behaviors of Zimmerman but suggests the solution to be abolishing gun ownership for "ordinary" citizens. George Zimmerman is not an ordinary citizen, and generalizations of this kind are very dangerous.
D.D.FRANK, VIA E-MAIL

Quit placing blame, right-wing edition

It seems like the majority of letters every week consist of Republicans said this or Democrats spent that, in nonstop back-and-forth bickering. I think we can all agree that the government is really bad at making everyone happy. Why is it then that they are tasked with spending everyone's money? Shouldn't we be asking ourselves if it's time to kick out the middle man, and begin to spend our money as we so choose, as individuals?
HANS HAUGEN, ASTORIA

I so tire of reading about the president this, the president that. It's Bush, it's Obama. It's because of both that my country is in the shape it's in! Let's just fix it. Wars and giving to every Dick and Harry out there is what has our country in finance trouble. Bush started wars, but Obama hasn't stopped them. Now Obama is talking about going in to other places. Does Obama really want to end this? Let's be real.
BLANCA HERNANDEZ, NEW YORK

Democrats voted for wars, tax cuts too!

RE: "IT'S GOING TO TAKE A LOT OF TIME AND MONEY TO FIX WHAT THE REPUBLICANS HAVE BROKEN": I see that my letter about Obama blaming everything on Bush has brought out the liberal Obama excuse squad. From 2007 to 2009, Congress was controlled by the Democrats. What has to be fixed is not a lot of money but less spending by our government.
IGOR MANNIKUS, NEW JERSEY

The Supreme Court must stay supreme

RE: "WILL OBAMACARE VERDICT SWAY THE NOV. ELECTIONS?": Of course the Supreme Court has too much power. That's why they're called the Supreme Court! Why have a group of people in a position that ultimately shapes the legal aspect of the country and give them limited powers? No matter how much people complain about the government having "too much power," the fact remains that the Supreme Court is a part of the process that has maintained peace and justice here for years. **ELLIOTT BAILEY, VIA E-MAIL**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** It's good that you are a courageous individual, but you need to be able to distinguish between bravery and just plain foolhardiness. Don't try to buck the odds.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** There's a chance you could get in way over your head if you challenge someone in a debate who has a firmer grip on the facts than you do. Know when to back off.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** If you already have your hands full trying to keep your own affairs in order, don't additionally attempt to sort out another person's muddled affairs. Mind your own beeswax.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** When one of your important goals is at stake, keep everyone else at bay. Unfortunately, taking on a partner could be more of a hindrance than a help.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** When it comes to important career matters, don't rely on anybody else to handle things. If you delegate your responsibilities to a party who makes a mistake, you'll only have yourself to blame.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Go ahead and let your hair down at a social gathering, but be careful not to wear out your welcome. To be on the safe side, be among the first to leave.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** Even if it takes a bit of doing, be as tolerant as possible with certain companions who are not in harmony with your goals and purposes. Make allies, not enemies.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Generally, things that we criticize in others are reflections of our own shortcomings. Instead of trying to correct the flaws of your colleagues, work on your personal imperfections.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Be particularly careful about getting yourself involved in a financial arrangement that is outside of your particular field of expertise. The lesson you learn could be an expensive one.

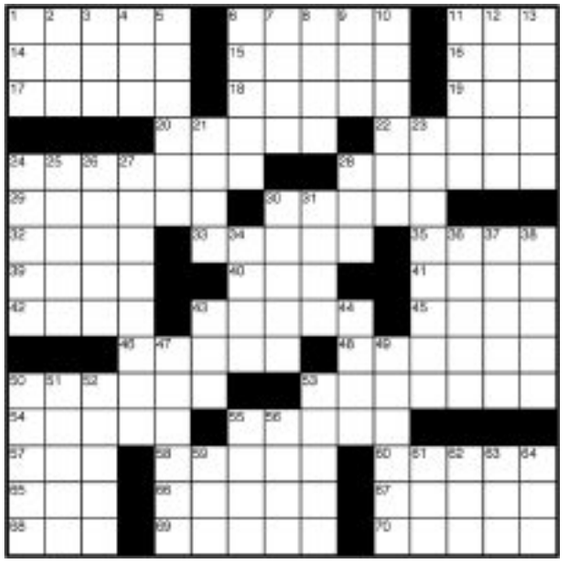
♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19**. There is nothing wrong with looking out for your self-interest, provided you're not trying to feather your nest at the expense of someone else.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Should an associate come to you requesting assistance, by all means do what you can to help. Just don't volunteer to take on something that's beyond your capabilities.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Avoid joining an activity with friends that is much too costly for your wallet to handle. Simply knowing it is beyond your means would put a damper on it for you. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Vice __
6 Utter chaos
11 Daystar
14 Zen master's poem
15 Fully conscious
16 MD employer
17 Tempus __
18 Board, as a bus (2 wds.)
19 Gas-station freebie
20 Amherst sch.
22 Beat it!
24 Speak haltingly
28 Archimedes' yell
29 Rostand hero
30 High-IQ group
32 Expansive story
33 Off-the-wall
35 Yield, as territory
39 Head support
40 Potato st.
41 Auto pioneer __ Benz
42 Morales of "La Bamba"
43 Just yak
45 Figurehead's place
46 Nostrils
48 Very spiny cactus
50 Desert "lake"
53 Sharply
54 Woody Allen movie
55 Wall climbers
57 Rapper __ Kim
58 Sahara wanderer
60 Wished fervently
65 __ kwon do
66 Eddy or Allman
67 "Farm" follower
68 Tack on
69 Intended
70 Cut drastically

Down
1 Channels 2-13
2 __ de cologne
3 Tractor-trailer
4 Enjoy Vail
5 Fall
6 Helga's hubby
7 Blows away
8 Cauldrons
9 Incan treasure
10 Population count
11 Dividend earner
12 Kayak kin
13 __ Shearer of "Escape"
21 Pet plea
23 Kook
24 Public tiff
25 Pounds the keys
26 Chilean port
27 Straits off Michigan
28 Wrap up
30 Golden-touch king
31 Q.E.D. part
34 Colleen's home
36 Baseball great __ Combs
37 Facetious
38 Longtime Denver QB
43 Opposite of post-
44 Livy's "Lo!"
47 Chair plan
49 Pipes down
50 Republic near Italy
51 Work by Homer
52 Really miffed
53 Came to the rescue
55 Mosque official
56 Windmill blade
59 Ja, to Jacques
61 Wildcat strike
62 Princess perturber
63 Gasthaus cubes
64 Homer's word



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9				5	3			
7						6		5
		8	6					9

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9	6	7					5	
	3		5		6	9		2
					9		6	
			1		3			6
		3				8		
5			8		2			
	7		9					
3		6	2		1		8	
	9					5	2	4

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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nightlife

Saying yes to improv

Looking to blow off some after-work steam? Try improv Shed your inhibitions and join a tight-knit community Or catch a show for a cheap, funny night out

▶ One of the most popular improv groups at The Magnet, Junior Varsity, performs most Thursday nights. With most shows being $10 or less, catching an improv show is a very inexpensive night on the town.

CARL OLSON

After enduring the typical daily chaos, how do New York's funny people unwind? More chaos, although in a more controlled form. Improv comedy is the art of saying yes, embracing spontaneity and surrendering to the often bizarre whims of your fellow man. It could be the official sport of the MTA.

"It's all about listening and keeping yourself open to the moment," says Magnet Theater improviser Louis Kornfeld. "You learn to throw yourself fully into a situation without knowing the outcome — and all you have is the other people around you."

All of the big, New York improv theaters, such as The Magnet, Upright Citizens Brigade and The Pit, offer a safe place to put yourself out there, as well as be a little vulnerable.

"A lot of the work teaches us to peel off the layers of cool that we accumulate over the years so as not to embarrass ourselves. Being okay with embarrassing yourself is a virtue in improv," says Kornfeld. Try it out for yourself on Thursday nights at their popular Magnet Mixer, where improv novices and experts alike can sign up to perform a quick scene together in front of an audience.

"The spirit of UCB is definitely a collaborative one and a social one. You learn to work and play well with others."
JULIE KLAUSNER

But be careful: It's a close community you're entering. After graduating from NYU in 2000, Julie Klausner, the polymath podcaster behind How Was Your Week, took classes, performed and eventually taught at UCB.

"The spirit of UCB is definitely a collaborative one and a social one," she says, "You learn to work and play well with others." Klausner adds that most of her professional relationships can be traced back to UCB. "I really do consider it my alma mater."

If performing isn't for you, UCB also offers writing classes. After dropping out of Yale Law School, Jessica Dweck moved to New York to pursue comedy, but found the open-mic scene frustrating. If you're serious, friends told her, go to UCB.

After taking UCB's writing class, Dweck is now a sketch-writer for the theater's Maude Night. She's also of the rare comics who gets to be funny in her day job: Since October, she has been contributing to Comedy Central's Indecision Blog.

▶ Klausner

MINDY TUCKER

Where to go

Magnet Theater
254 W. 29th St.
www.magnettheater.com

Upright Citizens Brigade:
Chelsea: 307 W. 26th St.
www.newyork.ucbtheatre.com
East Village: 153 E. Third St.
www.east.ucbtheatre.com

The Pit
123 E. 24th St.
www.thepit-nyc.com

REBECCA FINKEL
letters@metro.us

Cocktail recipe

Nolet's Silver Basil Collins

Nolet's fruity, floral Silver Dry Gin freshens up with a little basil in this citrus-y cocktail — perfect for spring.

What's in it:
- 1.5 oz. Nolet's Silver Dry Gin
- 3 muddled lemon wedges
- 0.5 oz. honey syrup
- 0.5 oz. lemon juice
- 3 basil leaves

How to make it:
Combine ingredients in a shaker with ice. Shake and pour into a Collins glass. Top with

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listings

Metro pick

Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.

Saturday, 6 p.m.
Brooklyn Bowl
61 Wythe Ave.
$10-$12, 718-963-3369

Sunday, 9 p.m.
Bowery Ballroom
6 Delancey St.
$17, 212-533-2111

Demonstrating that great things can still come out of Motor City, Detroit-based duo Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr. have eclipsed their own tongue-in-cheek charm to construct some truly great pop music. Incorporating simple electronic beats, summery melodies, and layers of Beach Boys-influenced vocal harmonies, the pair delivered one of the best debuts of last year with their album "It's a Corporate World." MIKE HILLEARY

▶ Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr performs this weekend.

ART MARKET

Artists & Fleas at Chelsea Market

Through June 3
Chelsea Market
75 Ninth Ave., free

Billyburg flea market institution Artists & Fleas heads to Manhattan to occupy a pop-up at Chelsea Market. Thirty artisans (some from the original outpost, some from the larger NYC creative community) hock everything from jewelry and homewares to art and vintage threads. Pick up something utterly unique, without crossing a bridge.
LEAH TAYLOR

THEATER

"The Maids"

Through April 1
Red Bull Theater
423 W. 46th St., $50

Jean Genet's 1947 classic "The Maids" remains a bitterly incisive study of class divisions and the murderous resentments that can build up within a master-servant relationship. This production is in the round, and the audience peering into the lavish bedroom from all four sides adds to the riveting paranoia of the piece.
JOHN PEACOCK

"A Moon for the Misbegotten"

Through April 15
New York City Center
West 55th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues, $39-64

The Pearl's exquisite production of Eugene O'Neill's "A Moon for the Misbegotten" offers a close-up look at the love gambler James Tyrone Jr. (Andrew May) and his tenant farmhand Josie (Kim Martin-Cotten) can never share because of pride, alcohol, domineering fathers, and role-playing gone awry. PATRICIA CONTINO

FILM

New Directors/New Films

Through April 1
MoMA
11 W. 53rd St., $14-20

A long-term cinematic affair between MoMA and the Film Society of Lincoln Center, New Directors/New Films offers film-lovers the chance to discover the next Almodovar, Solondz or Wong Kar-wai. This year's festival includes an impressive 29 features (24 narrative and five documentary) and 12 shorts, from 28 countries. MINDY BOND

MUSIC

Twerps with the Mad Scene

Friday, 10:30 p.m.
Mercury Lounge
217 E. Houston St.
$12, $10 advance

Don't let the name fool you, this indie quartet from Melbourne, Australia, are nothing to sneeze at. Touring in support of their 2011 self-titled debut LP, Twerps' current sound refines their earlier lo-fi guitar-driven hissiness and fits nicely in rotation with Galaxie 500, the Feelies, and Velvet Underground. MB

Ethan Lipton and his Orchestra: "No Place To Go"

Through April 8
Joe's Pub
425 Lafayette St., $30

Loveable lounge lizard Ethan Lipton sings the ills of the working class. At the play's open, we catch Lipton at a low point. Employed as a part-time "information refiner," he's just learned his company is relocating to Mars. MB

Sonic Boom

Saturday, 9 p.m.
Knitting Factory
361 Metropolitan Ave., Williamsburg, $12-15

There's always a good chance that an evening seeing Sonic Boom will result in at least one song by his former band, Spacemen 3, being played. JASON DIAMOND

Guerrilla Girls

Tonight, 7
Brooklyn Museum
200 Eastern Pkwy., $12

Superheroines of the art world, the Guerrilla Girls have been fighting discrimination since the mid-'80s. Tonight, the group illustrates their history via a multimedia performance that incorporates participatory exercises taken from the newly released edition of "The Guerrilla Girls' Art Museum Activity Book." MB

THE MOMA

▶ France's "The Minister" ("L'exercice de l'État") is being screened as part of the New Directors/New Films series at the MoMA.

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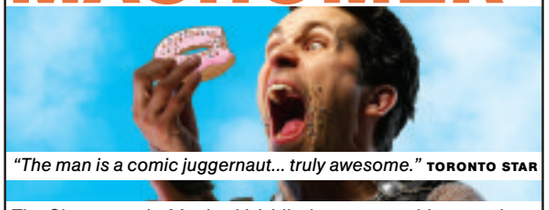
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MAGIC TRICK

Knicks blow out Orlando despite Lin, Stoudemire out due to injuries
Defense impressive in third quarter Woodson moves to 8-1 as coach

108	KNICKS (26-25)
86	MAGIC (32-19)

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Despite a sore groin, Carmelo Anthony again stepped up in Amar'e Stoudemire's absence due to a back injury.

The Knicks seem to have found an identity, and it has nothing to do with their star power, as they hammered the Magic into submission on the strength of a gritty defensive effort in a 108-86 win.

Despite missing two starters and a vital role player, the Knicks (26-25) used multiple scoring runs to erase an early nine-point deficit. Point guard Jeremy Lin (knee), power forward Amar'e Stoudemire (back) and reserve forward Jared Jeffries (knee) all missed action. But they weren't needed, as the Knicks used a 15-2 run to end the first half and then a team season-high 21-0 run in the third quarter to close out a lifeless Magic squad.

39 The Knicks' largest lead of the game was 39 points. They led 90-51 with 1:21 left in the third quarter.

Carmelo Anthony once again filled in for Stoudemire at power forward and dominated inside and outside, tallying 25 points. Anthony, who has unselfishly played out of position as Stoudemire recovers from a bulging disk, also added five rebounds and six assists.

The lack of healthy bodies for the Knicks never deterred them from stifling Orlando on the offensive end. The Magic (32-19) only shot 44.9 percent from the field, including 34.6 percent from 3. Jameer Nelson led the Magic with 17 points.

TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us

What went right ...

1 The Replacements — The Knicks didn't need Amar'e Stoudemire again, as key bench contributors made sure the Magic wouldn't exploit New York's injury-riddled starting lineup. Steve Novak in particular torched the shaky Magic defense for 16 points.

2 Center of attention —Dwight Howard is widely known as the best big man in the game, but last night the hulking center was no match for the wiry-strong Tyson Chandler. Howard finished with just 12 points and five rebounds.

3 From downtown — Orlando came into the game tops in the league in 3-pointers made (10) and attempted (27), but were anemic beyond the arc, shooting just 9-of-26 for 35 percent. They were even worse in the first half at 2-of-13. **METRO/TW**

Ed riding with Tebow

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Will Fireman Ed be buying a No. 15 jersey next season?

If "Fireman Ed" has his way, he will be leading a sold-out MetLife Stadium in his infamous "J-E-T-S! Jets! Jets! Jets" chant after plenty of Tim Tebow touchdown runs this year.

The most visible and vocal of all Jets fans, Ed Anzalone and his fireman helmet are on board with the trade for Tebow.

"You got a guy coming to the Jets who is a great guy, but he's also a football player — a real football player. Is he a great quarterback? No. But the guy, he's a winner. Does he help our team? Yeah.

"Here it is: What is it costing me? What kind of player am I getting? Everyone is going to talk about the circus but that's the media is making the circus. Do I think that there's pressure on Mark? Squarely. But here's the bottom line: It's up to Mark. He can shut everyone up."

KRISTIAN DYER

Not quite all in

Anzalone did qualify his Tebow support:

▶ "I think Tebow is a good football player. **Do I think we can win a world championship with Tebow? No, not at this point; not this season.** Maybe down the line he can be a better quarterback."

3

In the news

Coughlin close to signing long-term deal

Giants coach Tom Coughlin told reporters at the NFL owners meetings he will be signing an extension with the Giants soon. "Quite frankly, it'll get done. I'm not overly concerned." Coughlin is entering the final year on his current contract. The two-time Super Bowl winner will reportedly receive a multi-year extension. Owner John Mara said it should be done within a month. **METRO**

In the news

Jet disarray?

Darrelle Revis might want to stay away from word association in the future.

The Jets' All-Pro cornerback was appearing on ESPN yesterday when he was asked about the team locker room. The first word that came to his mind? "Disarray right now." He did say it was caused by "people just trying to find ways to win" though. Good luck, Mr. Tebow.

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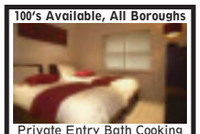
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Front Desk Lobby Security
Corporate front desk security paying $16-$22/hr. 87 Locations, no exp req / will train / start ASAP.
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All shifts available $12-$18/hr
No experience required.
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30 Armed/Unarmed, no exp nec, bilingual a +. Up to $500-$1,575/weekly
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A GREAT EMPLOYMENT OPPTY
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★Concierge Security Lobby/frnt dsk★
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No felonies, no High School.
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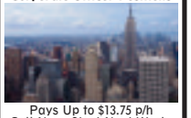
Pays Up to $13.75 p/h
Call Now, Start Next Week.
No experience necessary.
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FT/PT avail. Pay up to $23.75/hr. No exp.
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General Labor Start Immediately FT/PT Excellent pay w/ benefits. All shifts. Contact Ms. Acosta 212-510-8604

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$18/hr avg
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Piecework compensation
$18/hr avg rate. No Exp Needed
Training for accepted applicants
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Notices

Notice of Public Hearing Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the NYC Department of Consumer Affairs will hold a Public Hearing on 4/11/2012 at 2:00 p.m. at 66 John Street, 11th floor, on a petition from Aneio, LLC to establish, maintain, and operate an unenclosed sidewalk cafe at 668 Tenth Avenue in the Borough of Manhattan for a term of two years. Requests for copies of the proposed revocable consent agreement may be addressed to: Department of Consumer Affairs, Attn: FOIL Officer, 42 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.

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SHEN YUN

RETURNING TO LINCOLN CENTER APRIL 18-22

"A mesmerizing performance ...
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New York-based Shen Yun cannot be seen in China today, but it has become a global cultural sensation bringing the virtues and wisdom of authentic Chinese culture to millions of people across four continents.

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The only orchestra in the world featuring both classical Western and Chinese instruments as permanent members. Ancient Chinese instruments lead the melody on top of a full Western orchestra.

TICKETS **LINCOLN CENTER** DHKT | **APRIL 18-22** | Hotline: **800-818-2393** | **www.ShenYun2012.com/NYC**

SHEN YUN

RETURNING TO LINCOLN CENTER APRIL 18-22

Principal dancer and choreographer Michelle Ren in *Mulan Joins the Battle* from Shen Yun's 2009 world tour.

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- WORLD'S TOP CLASSICAL CHINESE DANCERS
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I am going to mention it on the news, because I think it is a great performance and people should see it."

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LINCOLN CENTER DHKT APRIL 18-22

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APRIL 21, 2012	Sat.	2.00pm
APRIL 21, 2012	Sat.	7.30pm
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